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Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief, Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

November 14, 2007

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I am Staff Director of Citizens for Conservation in the Barrington, Illinois area. In my capacity as Staff Director for the past twenty four years, I have directed the work of an organization dedicated to the health of the environment in the Barrington Area, in the broadest sense. Citizens for Conservation serves a vital purpose in the community by carrying out our mission of Saving Living Space for Living Things through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources and education. We depend heavily on lack of noise, low traffic and safety at grade crossings for the protection not only of our residents and many volunteers, but also for the wildlife in our preserves, unique to this area.

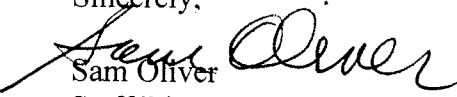
It has come to my attention that Canadian National Railway Company seeks to acquire the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railway Co. which operates a rail line that runs through the Barrington area. I write to urge the Surface Transportation Board to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for this transaction. The transaction will have a significant impact on noise, traffic, safety at grade crossings and our preserves. Only the rigorous review required by the EIS process will develop alternatives and mitigation procedures sufficient to limit that impact. This review should include impacts of the transaction further into the future than the three years Canadian National currently estimates.

Citizens for Conservation, an organization well-known in this region for its dedicated board, large membership and small army of volunteers, has worked tirelessly since its incorporation in 1971 to protect and restore the unique environmental features and habitats that are so threatened and have been destroyed in other suburban areas. Air and water quality are primary over-arching themes of our efforts and we work diligently to protect them for the sake of natural diversity in this region.

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION
459 West Highway 22
Barrington, Illinois 60010

If the Board does not require an EIS, we will not have the information necessary to prevent a severe degradation in the local environment. Moreover, the EIS should look further into the future than the three years for which CN has estimated traffic increases; such a shortsighted view does not take into account major changes expected in our region for future generations. The SEA should immediately begin developing a scope of study for a draft EIS that emphasizes the impact on this region. I look forward to further correspondence with SEA and the Board on the EIS process.

Sincerely,


Sam Oliver
Staff Director